Population Projection

Highlights

From the medium (reference) scenario:

- Alberta is projected to add close to 1.8 million residents over the next 25 years, reaching 6 million by 2041; an average annual growth rate of 1.4%.
- The majority of the province's expected growth will be due to migration, with net international migration accounting for 47% of this growth and net interprovincial migration accounting for 16%. By comparison, natural increase is projected to drive the remaining 37% of the growth.
- In the short term, the current economic downturn will lead to lower migration levels and slower population growth.
- Alberta's population is projected to get older and the median age (where half the population is younger and half is older) is expected to climb to 40.2 years by 2041 from 36.3 in 2016.
- In 2016, a newborn girl could expect to live to 83.5 years of age on average, while a boy could live 78.9 years. By 2041, life expectancy at birth is projected to rise to 86.5 for females and 82.8 years for males.
- The number of seniors aged 65 and older is expected to more than double from about 507,000, or about 12% of the total population in 2016, to just over 1.1 million. Almost one in five Albertans is projected to be aged 65 or older in 2041.
- While the number of Albertans in working ages (15 to 64 years) is expected to increase, the population share of this cohort is projected to drop from its current level of 69.6% to 64.7% by 2041.
- Between 2016 and 2026, the population aged 5 to 18 years is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 2.0%.
- Growth is expected to be concentrated in regions with larger urban centres, especially the Edmonton-Calgary Corridor. By 2041, eight out of ten Albertans are projected to be living in the three census divisions that make up this region, CD6 (Calgary), CD 8 (Red Deer) and CD 11 (Edmonton), up from 76% in 2016.
- Except for CD 4 (Hanna), CD 7 (Stettler) and CD 18 (Grande Cache), positive population growth is expected in all regions of the province. However, growth is projected to be very small in CD 3 (Pincher Creek), CD 13 (Whitecourt), and CD 14 (Edson).
- By 2041 CD 4 (Hanna) is projected to be the oldest region with 29% of its population aged 65 or older. CD 17 (Slave Lake) is expected to be the youngest with a 14% population share of seniors.

For more information on the *Population Projections* see:

- Population Projections, Alberta and Census Divisions, 2017-2041.
  Provides some discussion and details of the provincial and regional projected populations.
- Data for Alberta Population Projections.
  Includes estimated (1996-2016) and projected (2017-2041) population of Alberta and its 19 Census Divisions by single year of age and sex as well as some summary statistics.
- Population Projection Methodology and Assumptions.
  Details the methodology and assumptions of the long-term population projections.

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